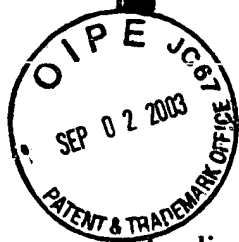


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Ben Mac Donald
8/29/03
Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 010952/STL9984



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kubota

Serial No.: 10/003,363

Filing Date: November 15, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1773

Examiner: Bernatz, Kevin M.

Title: SOFT MAGNETIC UNDERLAYER (SUL) FOR PERPENDICULAR
RECORDING MEDIUM

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

August 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final office action dated July 14, 2003 in the above-referenced application. This response is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. The Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the following amendments and re-consideration of all currently pending claims of the application in light of the amendments and the remarks following.